Office of Emergency Communications

Claudia Wayne
Office of Emergency Communications
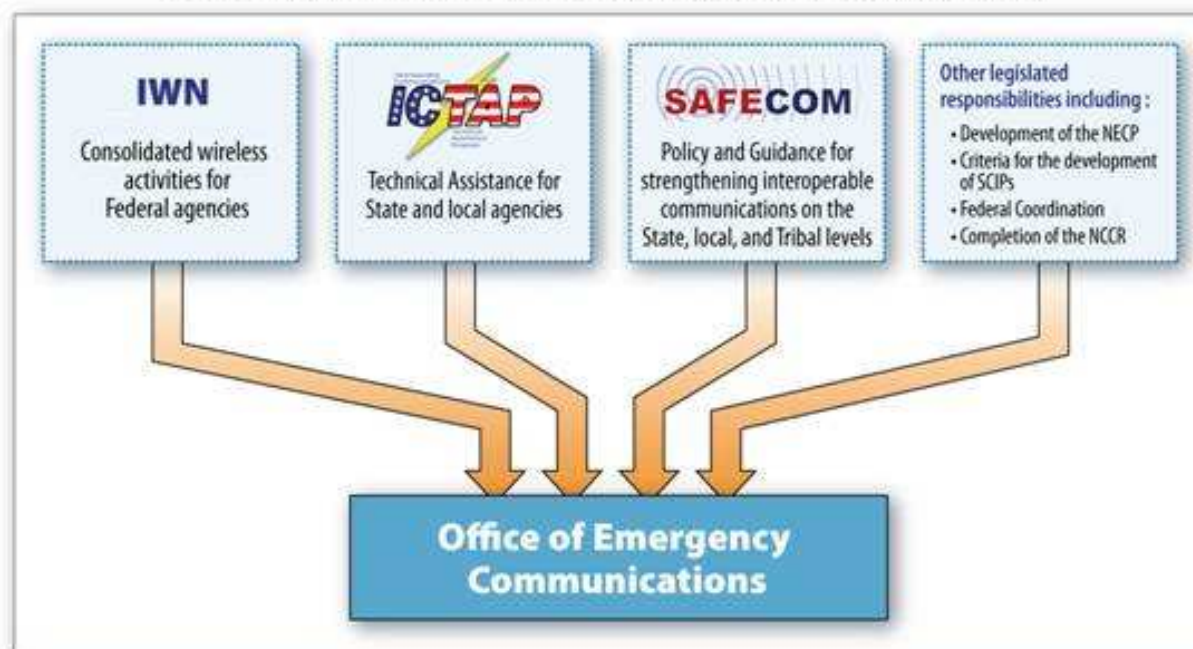**February 2009**

Office of Emergency Communications

- Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) Overview
- Service Offerings Overview
  - Policy and Planning
  - Coordination and Collaboration
  - Technical Assistance
  - Grants
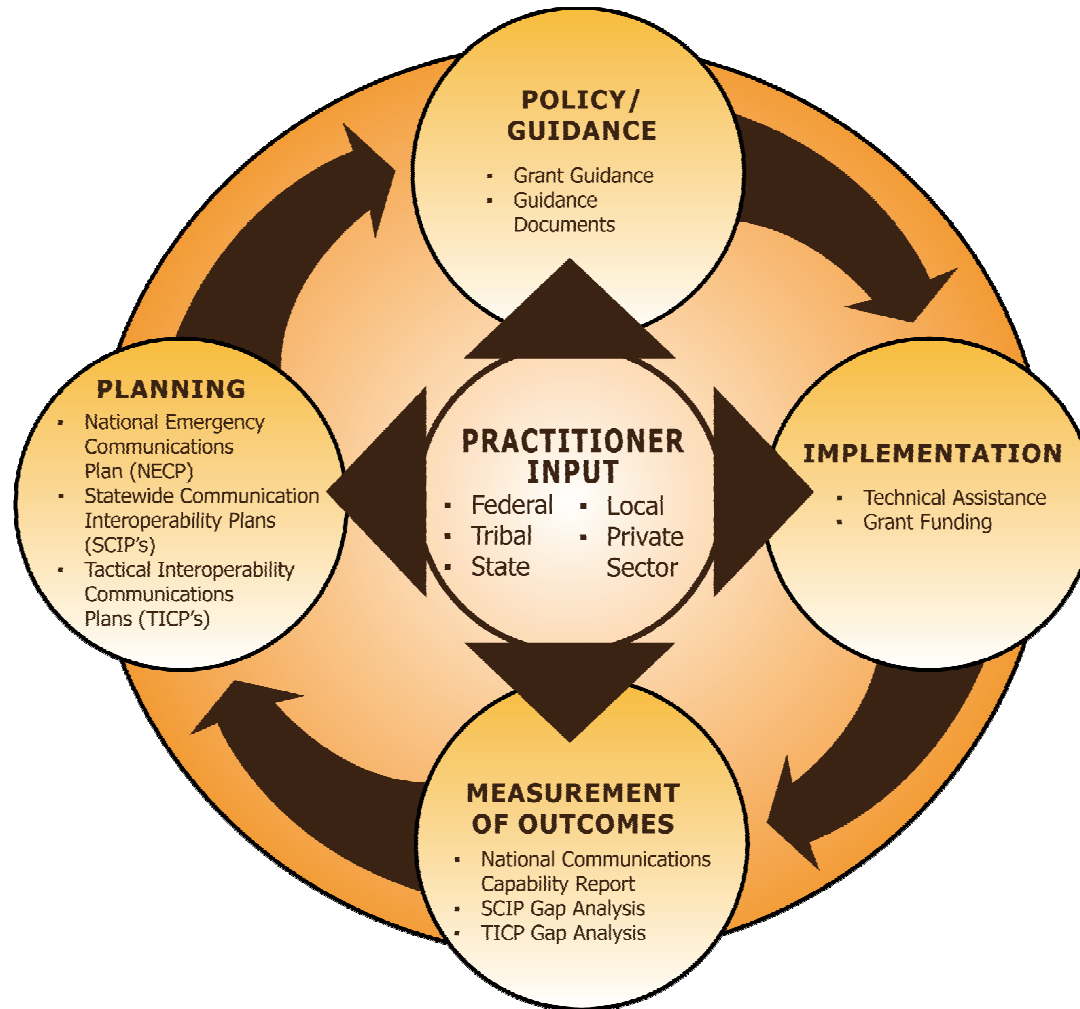 - Demonstration Projects
- Question and Answer

After Hurricane Katrina, Congress, through Title XVIII, established OEC as part of DHS' National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD). OEC began operations on April 1, 2007. Congressional legislation mandated OEC to coordinate emergency communications activities at the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels.

The Formation of the Office of Emergency Communications

IWN — Consolidated wireless activities for Federal agencies

ICTAP — Technical Assistance for State and local agencies

SAFECOM — Policy and Guidance for strengthening interoperable communications on the State, local, and Tribal levels

Other legislated responsibilities including:
- Development of the NECP
- Criteria for the development of SCIPs
- Federal Coordination
- Completion of the NCCR

Office of Emergency Communications

OEC is Practitioner-Driven

POLICY/ GUIDANCE
- Grant Guidance
- Guidance Documents

PLANNING
- National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)
- Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIP's)
- Tactical Interoperability Communications Plans (TICP's)

PRACTITIONER INPUT
- Federal
- Tribal
- State
- Local
- Private Sector

IMPLEMENTATION
- Technical Assistance
- Grant Funding

MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES
- National Communications Capability Report
- SCIP Gap Analysis
- TICP Gap Analysis

Interoperability Continuum

Left axis label: Limited Leadership, Planning, and Collaboration Among Areas with Minimal Investment in the Sustainability of Systems and Documentation

Right axis label: High Degree of Leadership, Planning, and Collaboration Among Areas with Commitment to and Investment in Sustainability of Systems and Documentation

Governance
- Individual Agencies Working Independently
- Informal Coordination Between Agencies
- Key Multi-Discipline Staff Collaboration on a Regular Basis
- Regional Committee Working within a Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Framework

Standard Operating Procedures
- Individual Agency SOPs
- Joint SOPs for Planned Events
- Joint SOPs for Emergencies
- Regional Set of Communications SOPs
- National Incident Management System Integrated SOPs

Technology

DATA ELEMENTS
- Swap Files
- Common Applications
- Custom-Interfaced Applications
- One-Way Standards-Based Sharing
- Two-Way Standards-Based Sharing

VOICE ELEMENTS
- Swap Radios
- Gateway
- Shared Channels
- Proprietary Shared System
- Standards-Based Shared System

Training & Exercises
- General Orientation on Equipment and Applications
- Single Agency Tabletop Exercises for Key Field and Support Staff
- Multi-Agency Tabletop Exercises for Key Field and Support Staff
- Multi-Agency Full Functional Exercises Involving All Staff
- Regular Comprehensive Regionwide Training and Exercises

Usage
- Planned Events
- Localized Emergency Incidents
- Regional Incident Management
- Daily Use Throughout Region

- **Policy and Planning:** Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIPs), National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP)

- **Coordination and Collaboration:** Federal, regional, State, local, tribal, and private sector

- **Technical Assistance:** Guidance Documents, Communications Unit Leader (COML) Training

- **Grants:** Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP), SAFECOM Grant Guidance

- **Demonstration Projects:** Shared Infrastructure, Border Interoperability Demonstration Project

Policy and Planning: Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIPs)

- The SCIPs are locally-driven, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-disciplinary statewide plans to enhance emergency communications interoperability that address all lanes of the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum

- As of April 18, 2008, all 56 SCIPs were approved

- OEC is undertaking the following initiatives to support States' implementation of their SCIPs:
  - SCIP Implementation Reports
  - National Summary of SCIPs
  - SCIP Implementation Workshops
  - Technical Assistance

- The primary objectives of these initiatives are to:
  - Support States in improving emergency communications
  - Help OEC align its resources and programs to best support each State's interoperability needs

Coordination and Collaboration

State/Local/Tribal

- **SAFECOM Executive Committee and Emergency Response Council (EC/ERC), Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) Council, Metropolitan Area Working Group (MAWG)**
  - Promote good governance, best practices, and lessons learned

Federal

- **Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC)**
  - Coordinates interoperability capabilities within the Federal government and between Federal, State, local and tribal agencies
- **Emergency Communications Preparedness Center (ECPC)**
  - Chaired by DHS, comprised of 12 Secretary-level representatives
  - Coordinates Federal emergency communications operability and interoperability assurance efforts

Regional

- **FEMA's Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups (RECCWGs)**
  - Assess emergency communications capabilities
  - Facilitate disaster preparedness by promoting multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency solutions
  - Ensure that activities are coordinated within the FEMA region

Private Sector/Industry

- **Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC)**
  - Emergency Services Sector, Communications and IT Sector Coordination Councils, the State, Local, Tribal Governments Coordinating Council
- **The President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC)**
  - Makes recommendations to the President on national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP)

Grants: Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) Legislation and Appropriation

- Legislation specifies that grants will be made to States and territories to "carry out initiatives to improve local, tribal, statewide, regional, national and, where appropriate, international interoperable emergency communications"

- Authorizes at least $1.6 billion from Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 – 2012
  - FY 2008: $50 million appropriated
  - FY 2009: $50 million appropriated
  - FY 2010 – 2012: Up to $400 million each fiscal year
  - Each subsequent FY: "Such sums as may be necessary"

IECGP Update

FY 2008

Priority Group One	Priority Group Two
Leadership and Governance: Establish Formal Interoperable Emergency Communications Governance Structures	Common Planning and Operational Protocols/Emergency Responder Skills and Capabilities
Approximately 25% of funds	Approximately 75% of funds
7 States are using a portion of the FY 2008 IECGP allocation to hire or supplement the interoperability coordinator position	6 States are using a portion of the FY 2008 IECGP allocation to participate in a Communications Unit Leader (COML) training course

FY 2009

Priority Group One	Priority Group Two
Gaps in Governance and Common Operational Planning and Protocols – Establishment of formal interoperable emergency communications governance structures – Establishment of common planning and operational protocols	Emergency Responder Skills and Capabilities – Enhancement of emergency responder skills and capabilities through training and exercises

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance Catalog

Office of Emergency Communications

TA-OEC-CATALOG-001-D0

July 2008
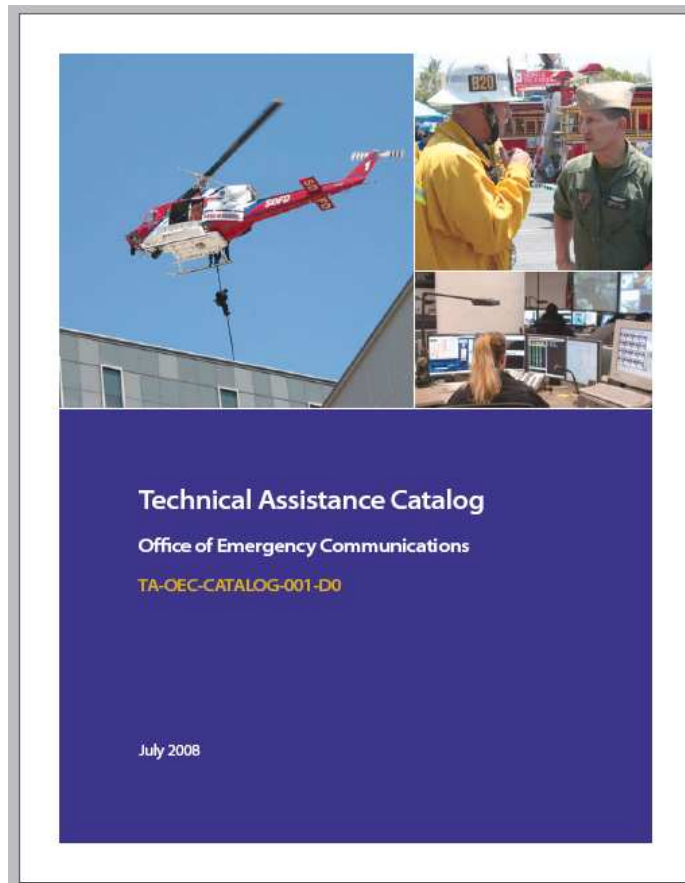
Types of services are categorized into six major topic areas in the Technical Assistance Catalog:

1. Governance and Standard Operating Procedure Support
2. Communications Unit Training and Support
3. Communications Operations Support
4. Communications Systems Engineering Support
5. Tactical Communications Enhancement Support
6. Communication Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) Support

The catalog is available online at www.safecomprogram.gov

Priorities

1. **Statewide:** Standardize operating procedures for statewide interoperable communications

2. **Statewide:** Expand governance model

3. **Regional:** Execute a regional communications focused gap analysis Tabletop Exercise

4. **Statewide:** Update the statewide microwave backbone infrastructure and develop a comprehensive plan to address catastrophic loss

5. **Statewide:** Enhance modern regional systems and develop a long term vision and plan for statewide interoperability

Technical Assistance: Communication Unit Leader (COML) Course

- The COML Working Group established standards for training, evaluating, and certifying those individuals responsible for managing emergency incident communications

- As of 2/19/09, OEC has supported the training of about 530 practitioners to serve as All Hazards Type III COMLs

- Practitioners may register for COMLs training by e-mailing their request to comltraining@hq.dhs.gov

- For information regarding prerequisites for becoming a student, class locations and dates, and FAQ's, please visit www.safecomprogram.gov

Technical Assistance: Tools and Methodologies

- **Recently Published**
  - Improving Interoperability through Shared Channels
  - Plain Language Guide
  - Interoperable Communications for Planned Events
  - National Interoperability Field Operations Guide
  - Interoperability Business Case: An Introduction to Ongoing Local Funding
  - Statewide Communications Interoperability Governance and SCIP Implementation Methodology
- **Tools in Development**
  - Capabilities Assessment Guide
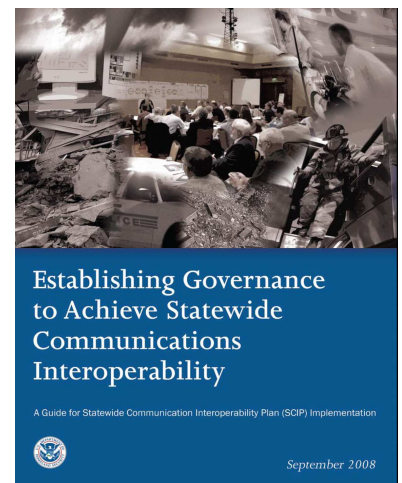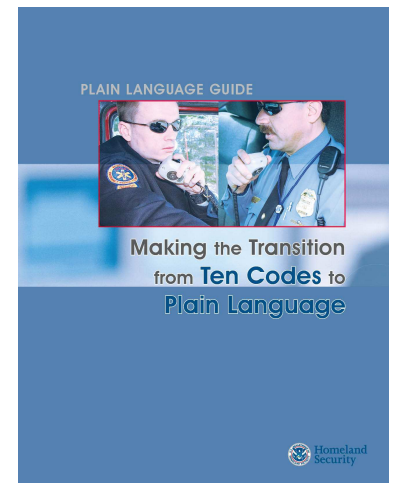
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Questions?